

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

In order that this application may be expeditiously passed to issue, the claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and a Terminal Disclaimer is being submitted to remove the double patenting rejection. The cancellation of claims and submission of the Terminal Disclaimer are not intended to indicate any agreement with the rejections.

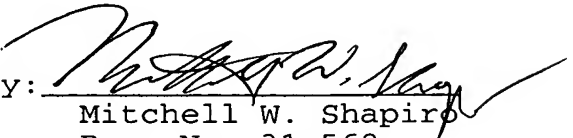
Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant additionally requests that the Examiner furnish an endorsed copy of Form PTO-1449 from the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement dated December 8, 2004.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and

has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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